

[Copy.]

Leicester, June 8. 1862.

Dear Mr. Quincy;

To you as the President of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society I address my resignation of the office of General Agent of the Society - to take effect from and after the Fourth of July next, ~~or so soon as the business of that day's celebration by our Society may be finished.~~

I am led to this ~~step~~ by an admonition which I must not disregard, arising from the poor state of my health, and its apparently increasing uncertainty. I cannot (I am convinced) properly discharge the duties of the office - whether I consider the Society's claims or those of ~~my own~~ a more private nature, - and so I ought not to undertake to discharge them.

It is no light matter to me to bring to a close ~~and to separate~~ the <sup>official</sup> connexion



which (with an intermission of <sup>about</sup> ~~seventy~~ <sup>twenty months</sup> ~~less than two years~~) has subsisted for ~~over~~ <sup>about</sup> sixteen years, - it having commenced in June, 1847. With those - the living and the dead - whose kind and generous confidence called me to this office, I hope never to be dissociated in spirit and fact, in time or in eternity. From my hearts <sup>and</sup> depths I thank you, Mr. President, <sup>past and present</sup> each and all of your Associates, in the Management and high trusts of the Society, for <sup>many</sup> the ~~continued and constant~~ evidences you have given me of <sup>your</sup> friendship and trust, <sup>and</sup> which I sincerely wish I could have repaid <sup>you</sup> with a fourfold greater devotion and efficiency than I have <sup>been able to do</sup>. I ~~have~~ <sup>could not</sup> easily overstate ~~how~~ <sup>my</sup> sense of the honourable nature of the work to which you called me. In that day of small things, it was scorned and "everywhere spoken against." Now the ~~entire~~ Nation is aroused, and is branding ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~forehead of the~~ <sup>Flavery's forehead</sup> with deadly power, ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~living and deadly~~ <sup>hateful</sup> ~~revelation~~ <sup>revelation</sup>



and its doom, as pronounced both by  
~~old~~ character, ~~in the sight of both~~ man and  
God. Thankful for what my eyes ~~have~~ see,  
~~seen~~, desiring to be trustful in Him for  
the rest, but knowing, too, how full of  
peril is the hour through which we are  
passing, - lest, <sup>perchance</sup> in a moment of <sup>blindness</sup> ~~care~~ or  
doubt, the Nation should, Esau-like, sell  
its birth-right for a mess of pottage, and  
consent to some new bargain with that  
which has shown itself always and only  
evil and devilish, in its nature and <sup>all its</sup> workings,  
I regret to ~~feel~~ <sup>be</sup> obliged to withdraw from  
active labours in your service at such a  
time. But so it is, and I must be now  
only acquiescent, but thankful for what I  
have been able to accomplish with your  
Co-operation. The office of your Correspond-  
ing Secretary I will not yet resign, and  
membership in <sup>the</sup> ~~your~~ Society must cease only  
with my life. So far as my strength enables,  
I ~~can never~~ <sup>wish</sup> ~~cease~~ <sup>always</sup> to be a co-worker with <sup>you</sup> all,  
~~among you~~ in your efforts to save our Country  
from the accumulated woes and curses



which Slavery <sup>had</sup> designed to bring upon it,  
and to rid our land forever of its  
baneful presence.

With sincere esteem & respect for  
yourself and the Society which you  
represent, I remain,  
Ever and truly Yours

Samuel May, Jr.